

MEMORANDUM

To: All OGC Families, Staff and Volunteers
From: Kyle Hauth, Executive Director
Subject: **OGC Update**
Date: November 2, 2007

I am happy to report that Orange Grove has arranged the services of a Psychiatrist to take the place of Dr. Kennedy who recently retired. Dr. Glynn Newman is Board Certified in General Psychiatry and Forensic Psychiatry. He is the Medical Director for Senior Care unit, Woods Memorial Hospital and Bradley Healthcare Rehabilitation Center and he also serves as President of the Cleveland Psychiatric Center. He received his Doctor of Medicine degree from the University of Tennessee College of medicine and completed his Psychiatry Residency at the University of Florida. Although his schedule is very hectic, he has agreed to serve those individuals receiving services from the OGC Health Clinic. He along with his Psychiatric NP will provide the needed services by visiting our clinic two days per month.

Please be reminded that the DMRS Town Hall Meeting will take place at the OGC Cafeteria on November 6th at 7:00 p.m. This meeting is held each year to allow officials from DMRS to discuss challenges the Division is facing and their plans to address them. I found last year's meetings to be both informative and interactive. I strongly encourage you to attend this meeting and hear for yourself the direction DMRS is going in terms of services and supports for people with developmental disabilities.

The ARC of Tennessee has a part time employment opportunity for anyone who has an interest in assisting individuals with intellectual disabilities. The ARC is looking for individuals who would serve as a surveyor for their "People Talking to People" grant. This grant allows the ARC to conduct surveys of the people we serve to determine if their needs are being addressed and if there are unresolved issues. The "People Talking to People" surveyor position around Chattanooga is a part_time job paying \$8.00 per hour. The ARC will provide travel reimbursement of \$.38 per mile. If you are interested in learning more about this opening, feel free to contact me and I'll be happy to provide you with more information.

Thanks to Leslie Smith (OGC Public Relations Coordinator), we have recently published some informative and well organized documents that I'm sure you will find most helpful. The FY 2006-2007 Annual Report provides an update on the activities that took place last fiscal year and some of our notable accomplishments. The recent newsletter (Osage Connection, Volume 2, issue 1) is packed full of informative information which all Orange Grove stakeholders need to be aware of. You may see both documents on our website by clicking on the link entitled "About Orange Grove". If you would prefer to have a hard copy of these documents, please do not hesitate to ask. We'll put one in the mail for you today, if you would like.

A federal court recently refused to set aside a consent order in which the state agreed to expand services to individuals with developmental disabilities. As you may remember in 2004, the state settled a class action lawsuit by agreeing to seek approval and legislative appropriations for expansion of home and community based waiver services. A stated goal of the settlement was to eliminate or substantially reduce the waiting list for services. The state was recently arguing that the cost of compliance with the order was greater than expected and offered only to enroll 50 individuals per month (a much smaller number than originally agreed upon). Thankfully, the court denied the request to dismiss the case. Unfortunately, the court did not grant the waiting list parties an injunction directing the state to comply or for modification of the agreement. The plaintiffs asked the court to order the state to enroll everyone who had been in the crisis category for more than 90 days by the end of the year. The court found that changes to the agreement might be necessary, but there was not enough information to determine what those changes should be. The next step in the litigation will be discovery and preparation for a hearing on the plaintiffs' request that the state be ordered to perform according to the terms of the agreement.